

CATTITUDE



Newsletter of Haverhill & District Branch of Cats Protection

Spring/Summer 2020

FREE

Donations gratefully accepted

Reg Charity 203644 (England and Wales) and SC037711 (Scotland)

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/HaverhillCP

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A Word From The Branch Coordinator

A very warm welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter. We hope that you are staying safe and well during the Coronavirus pandemic. We took the decision early to cease re-homing cats and carry out home visits until it is deemed safe for us to continue. Thankfully we only have a few cats in care and our fosterers are still able to continue looking after them.

Two of our long term fosterers retired from the branch at the end of last year. I have personally worked with these fosterers for a very long time and it is very sad when we have to say goodbye to such experienced people. If you are looking for a volunteering role that is very rewarding, then why not consider fostering for us. We are looking for volunteers who can commit long term. Cats Protection supply all equipment needed, food, litter etc. All we require from you is a spare room

for the cat to stay and a lot of love and attention for the cats. Alternatively, you may like to consider covering for emergencies and holidays. If you would like more information then please contact us through the normal channels.

We are delighted to welcome two new members to our team; a new Secretary and an Events Organiser.

Our Events Organiser is going to be responsible for all fundraising carried out within the Branch. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, we had to postpone our fundraising events at Pets at Home. Hopefully, these will resume in the not too distant future. Please watch this space for future fundraising events.

Our Publicity Officer is also fundraising for her trek in Nepal next year. She needs to raise a pledge of £4,400 and the money she raises will go to our branch. She is looking for good quality

bric-a-brac that she can use either as raffle prizes or to sell on her stall. She is also looking for people who are willing to sponsor her. For more details please contact her at:

publicity@haverhill.cats.org.uk

She will be very grateful for all the support she can get for this very worthy cause.

To finish on a happy note, the two very sick kittens that came into care towards the end of last year, with a severe case of cat flu, have been re-homed and are doing extremely well. They are full of mischief, as kittens should be, are very inquisitive and are living life to the full. A complete contrast from when they first came into care and the prognosis was very dire. A very happy ending for a pair of cuddly fluff balls.

Branch Co-Ordinator.



Social Media and Website Update

Unfortunately, due to the fact that Cats Protection's homing procedures have been suspended during the Coronavirus outbreak, you are unable to view our available cats on our website.

Thankfully, recent events have not stopped us from continuing to post useful information on crucial topics in cat care and welfare. Therefore, we invite you to read the latest news articles on our website and follow our Facebook page **@HaverhillCP** to receive informative and engaging content on all things feline!

You can visit our website by copying the following link into your search engine:

www.cats.org.uk/stourvalley

If you have any content that you would like to see, either on our social media or website, please

get in touch. We are happy to write articles about cat care and welfare issues that you may feel will be particularly relevant and useful in our area.

Have a Success Story to Share?

We are constantly looking for more success stories to share with our community of cat lovers, through our social media, website and newsletter.

If you have adopted a cat from our branch, and you would like to share your story with us, please get in touch through social media or email publicity@haverhill.cats.org.uk

Success of The Santa Paws Fundraising Event

In February, two of our volunteers collected a cheque for £2,328.36, presented to our branch by Haverhill's Pets At Home. This was for the Santa Paws fundraising event that we took part in from the end of November to the end of December 2019. This is an amazing amount to be collected from the very generous Pets At Home customers.

On top of this, we have been very lucky to be chosen as one of their partnership charities for 2020.

We would like to thank all our volunteers for their hard work, as well as all our fantastic supporters.

Cat Guardians Scheme

Cat Guardians is a free service provided by Cats Protection, aimed at giving peace of mind to cat owners concerned about what might happen if they were to pass away before their cat.

Cats Protection promises never to put a healthy cat to sleep. Therefore, by signing up to our scheme, you can feel assured that we will give your feline

friend all the love and care they need, until a deserving new home is found.

For more information, contact Cats Protection's National Helpline on 03000 12 12 12 or email helpline@cats.org.uk

Lucy's Law

Lucy's Law came into effect from 6 April in England. The law means that kittens can't be sold by a third-party seller, such as a pet shop or commercial dealer, unless they have bred the animal themselves. Instead, anyone looking to buy or adopt a kitten under six months must either deal directly with the breeder or an animal rehoming centre.

To help the public responsibly find pets, the government has launched its 'Petfishing' campaign. You may have heard of 'catfishing', when someone creates a fictional online persona to lure a person into a relationship. Deceitful pet sellers often use a similar tactic to 'petfish' buyers, mistreating animals and selling them at high volume to line their pockets.

Cats Protection always encourages potential cat owners to consider adopting rather than

buying a cat.

We've also teamed up with cat and vet organisations to create a Kitten Checklist, designed to help potential owners ensure they choose a happy and healthy kitten.

If you would like an online copy of this useful document, please get in touch with us on Facebook or email publicity@haverhill.cats.org.uk



Are you an Expert on Keeping Your Cat Cool In The Summer?

Take the quiz to find out!

1. Are white cats more at risk of sunburn in the summer?

- Yes
- No

2. Moving your cat's water bowl away from its food bowl will encourage it to drink

- True
- False

3. How can you tell if your cat is hydrated?

- Tickle their nose and see if twitches
- Carefully pinch their skin to see if it recoils quickly

4. Cats can get skin cancer from overexposure to the sun

- True
- False

5. Which material should you avoid when choosing a water bowl?

- Ceramic
- Plastic

6. What is the best type of water bowl for your cat?

- A small narrow bowl with raised edges
- A large bowl with a wide rim and a big surface area

Answers on the next page

Quiz Answers—Keeping Your Cat Cool In The Summer

1. Yes. White cats are much more at risk of sunburn than cats of other colours. Speak with your vet about which sun cream may be suitable for your cat.

2. True. Cats prefer to drink away from where they eat. Place your cat's water bowl away from their food to ensure they stay hydrated.

3. Carefully pinch their skin to see if it recoils quickly. If it does, this means your cat is well hydrated. Dehydration is serious for cats. If you are worried they may be suffering from serious dehydration, take them to the vet immediately.

4. True. While your cat's fur provides some protection, they can still get skin cancer from being in the sun. If you're concerned, keep your cat indoors during the hottest parts of the day.

5. Plastic. Avoid plastic bowls. Especially in the heat, they can taint the taste of water and discourage your cat from drinking. Use glass or ceramic instead.

6. A large bowl with a wide rim and a big surface area. Making sure your cat's bowl has a wide rim and a good surface area encourages them to drink freely, meaning they'll be less likely to become dehydrated.

How well did you do? If you want to find out more, carry on reading...

Cat Hydration

When your cat does not take in enough fluid through drinking or eating a wet (canned) diet, your cat can become dehydrated.

During the summer months, this is more likely to happen. Normal hydration is important as it helps maintain a normal body temperature, removes waste products and maintains proper circulation.

To assess whether your cat is dehydrated, look at our top tips:

- **Assess your cat's gums.** If your cat's gums are sticky or tacky, this may be the first sign of dehydration.
- **Test skin elasticity.** In a well-hydrated cat, the skin should snap back into place immediately. If it doesn't, it could well be dehydrated.
- **Check your cat's eyes.** Severely sunken eyes that appear dry can indicate significant dehydration.
- **Feel your cat's paws.** If the

paws feel cool or cold, this could be a sign of dehydration.

If dehydration is suspected, please seek veterinary advice.

To prevent your cat from getting dehydrated, encouraging them to drink water is key. Here are some ways to get your cat to drink more water:

- **Avoid plastic bowls.** In the heat, these can taint the taste of the water. Use glass, ceramic or metal instead.
- **Place water bowls away from food bowls.** Cats don't like to drink in the same place that they eat.
- **Make sure the water bowl is large, with a big surface area**
- **Keep the water topped up** so your cat doesn't have to put their head into the bowl, and to make sure your cat isn't left without any water at all.
- **Many cats prefer running water,** so try offering a cat

fountain.

- **Putting water bowls in different places around the house** will help cats always find somewhere to drink.

If you feed your cat tinned food, small amounts of water can be mixed into the food, which will increase fluid intake.

Keeping Your Cat Safe In The Garden

Just like gardeners, cats enjoy spending time in the great outdoors, amongst the flowers and shrubs. Whilst most will be perfectly safe outside, there are a host of potential garden hazards for cats. Therefore, we have compiled a list of tips to keep them safe:

- **Ensure your cat is fully vaccinated** to protect against diseases and parasites. Neutering is also vital to prevent unwanted kittens being born and to reduce roaming, keeping your cat closer to home.
- **Shade and privacy:** Trees, shrubs and hedges provide excellent shady spots for cats to keep cool and offer privacy. Runner bean wigwams are easy to grow and fun for young

families, as well as providing a secret hideaway for cats.

- **Be aware of poisonous substances in your shed and garage** which cats may be able to access. Antifreeze, disinfectants, insect and pest killers can all be lethal to cats and should be kept well out of your cat's reach.

- **If you have a pond, cats may be tempted to drink from it.** To reduce the risk of them falling in, place some wire mesh securely over the pond, or make sure that there is a low edge so it is easy for a cat to get out. Ensure that any water butts also have a lid on them.

- **Avoid toxic plants:** Be aware of which plants can pose a risk to cats. Lilies are particularly toxic

and can have fatal consequences for cats by causing severe kidney failure. Many types of bulbs can be dangerous to cats, including daffodils, tulips and crocuses.



- **Choose cat-friendly plants** such as catnip (*Nepeta cataria*), mint, cat thyme (*Teucrium marum*) and lavender. A patch of longer grass can provide a soft bed and cats may also nibble on it to help cough up hairballs, while logs make excellent outdoor scratching posts.

- **Cat mint fun:** Cat mint (*Nepeta cataria*) and valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*) both have pretty flowers and can produce an ecstatic response in around 50-70% of cats. While the effects of catnip are short lived, avoid positioning it in front gardens close to a road and, if you have a

paved garden or are in rented accommodation, try planting in pots.

- **Use humane methods to keep your cat away from wildlife nesting areas or sections you do not want them to use.** Cats dislike the smell of citrus fruit peel and can also be deterred using chicken manure or pellets of lion dung, available from pet shops. Cats will also be put off by materials that feel uncomfortable under their paws such as broken egg shells, stone chippings and prickly plants.

- **Keep the doors of sheds and greenhouses shut.** Be careful not to accidentally trap cats inside outbuildings during hot weather.

- **Ensure your cat has appropriate flea treatment.** Fleas thrive in hot weather, so make sure your cat is protected against them. Your vet will be able to recommend the best treatment for your pet.

- **Cats Protection recommends microchipping as a safe, effective way of identifying your cat should it become lost when outdoors.**

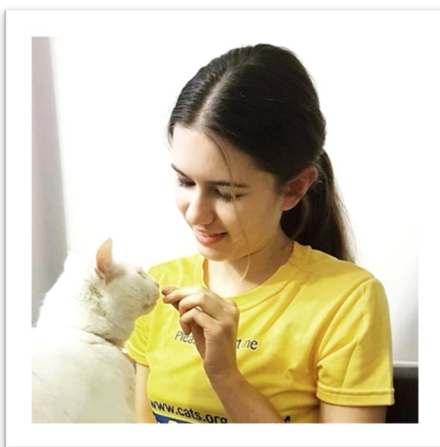
Volunteer's Challenge for our Branch

My name is Julia and I am the branch's Publicity Officer and a member of the committee.

I have challenged myself to complete the Nepal Trek and Tiger Conservation Programme, which is one of Cats Protection's international challenges. The money I raise will go directly to our branch.

I will complete a five-day trek in the Annapurna area of Nepal. The highest point of the trek will be at Poon Hill (3400m). After completing the trek, I will transfer to Bardia National Park, reputed to be the best place in Nepal for potential tiger sightings. I will stay there for four nights, taking part in a variety of activities, including talks from park officials and the chance to engage in a tiger awareness programme with the local community. This trip will take place from 6th November to 20th November 2021. I need to raise a

full pledge of £4,400 by December 2021.



A Bit About Me

Like many other animal lovers, my passion for animals started from a very young age. I have been involved with them since I remember, including horse riding and dog training. I currently share my home with a very sassy 7-year-old cat named Bella. Bella absolutely loves play fetching and joining in on my dog walks.

I started volunteering for animal charities in secondary school, by hosting a fundraiser for WWF. I then had other volunteering roles, including summer work at a Blue Cross rehoming centre and at an RSPCA charity shop. This made me realize that I want to work for a charity in the future. When the opportunity came up to become a Publicity Officer at Haverhill's branch, I was thrilled. I knew this would be a fantastic opportunity to prepare me for a charity role after I graduate, whilst making a difference for the cats in my local community.

As the Publicity Officer and Committee Member of the branch, I manage our social media, newsletter, web page and I create various promotional materials, such as posters. Additionally, I attend our committee meetings, when various aspects of the running of our branch are discussed.

Apart from the work I do for Cats Protection, I am a university student and I work part-time as an Events and Marketing Assistant for another local charity.

Why Support Me?

The money I raise goes directly to our branch, meaning that we receive essential funding to continue the work we do for the local community, such as the Snip and Chip campaign.

All our volunteers, including committee members, are non-paid members of the branch, meaning that all the money the branch receives goes directly to helping cats.

How Can You Help?

1. You can **donate** on my [JustGiving](#) site:

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/juliacieslaknepal

2. You can **share** the JustGiving page on your social media to help raise awareness about my challenge.

3. **Help for free when shopping online!**

If you shop online with major UK retailers, you can be raising money for my challenge, at no

extra cost to you. All you need to do is access the retailers' websites through my page at:

**[www.goraise.co.uk/
juliacieslaknepal](http://www.goraise.co.uk/juliacieslaknepal)**

The retailers donate a fraction of their earnings to the cause.

To make this easier, you can download an add-on to your browser which notifies you whenever you are shopping through a store that can donate to my cause.

4. Come along to one or more of the events I am hosting in the local area.

You may have seen me in Pets At

Home in Haverhill where I fundraise for my challenge on a monthly basis.

I'm also hosting a bingo night in October. For more information, please see the next page.

5. Have an idea of how you can help?

Please get in touch with me on publicity@haverhill.cats.org.uk

I am particularly on the lookout for prizes that I can use during quiz/bingo nights and raffles.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported me so far.

Please sponsor me for my Nepal Trek and Tiger Conservation Programme
6th November - 20th November 2021
In aid of Cats Protection's Haverhill & District Branch
www.justgiving.com/fundraising/juliacieslaknepal
Reg Charity 208146 (England and Wales) and SC0379711 (Scotland)

CATS PROTECTION

Trek for cats!
#CatChampions

Thank you

Join us for...

BINGO NIGHT

FRIDAY 30TH OCTOBER
7PM START
AT THE VILLAGE HALL, LINTON



£7 for bingo, savoury snacks and soft drinks



Welcome to bring your own snacks and drinks



Bring £1 for an extra game



Fundraising for Julia's Nepal Trek in aid of Cats Protection's Haverhill Branch



To book: email publicity@haverhill.cats.org.uk
or call 07484827776



I'd Love to Foster But...

We are actively looking for new fosterers to help us make a difference for cats.

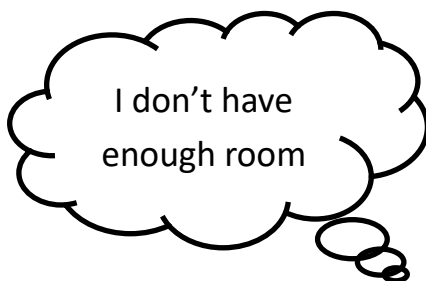
Admittedly, fostering isn't for anyone, and the decision to become one should not be made lightly. However, it is a very rewarding role which is crucial to the functioning of our branch because we do not have a central rehoming centre - all the cats in our care are in various foster homes around the area.

In order to foster a cat, you would need a spare room in your home or space in your garden for a cat pen. You would also need some time, love and general common sense! We also seek volunteers who can commit long-term to fostering, due to the time and money it takes to fully train and prepare a volunteer for fostering.

We provide free training, food, litter, all veterinary expenses and full backup and support.

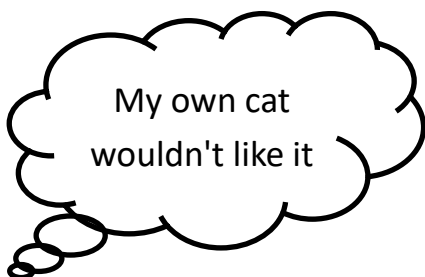
Many people would consider

fostering, but they often have concerns, unanswered queries or worries that stop them. In this article, we try to answer a few:

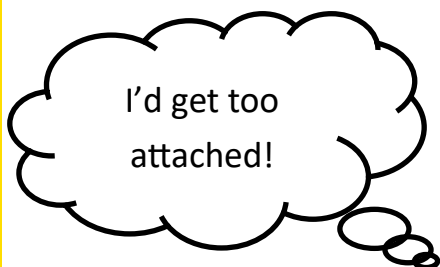


Some people think a lot of space is needed to foster, or think it is unfair to keep a cat confined to one room. However, this is still a better alternative than living in a rehoming shelter's cattery in a more confined space, with many more stress factors than a home environment. In addition, the room does not need to be a spare bedroom. It could be a dining room or study. All that the room requires is: a window, a door that can be shut and space for a cat bed, litter tray and food

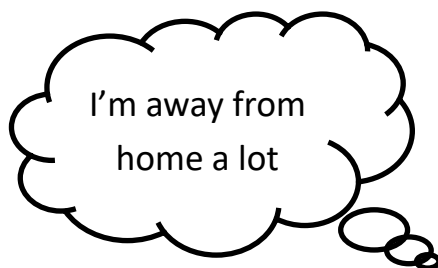
and water bowls.



It is rare for a fosterer to not have their own cat(s). It is Cats Protection's policy that fostered cats are not allowed to mix with other cats in our care. This does mean your cat will not be able to access the room that the fostered cat is in. However, unless the room is a particular favourite of your cat, it should not realistically miss having that particular room to roam or sleep in. Furthermore, it is true that your cat would probably know that there was another feline behind that shut door, however, it does not seem to bother cats apart from being initially curious.



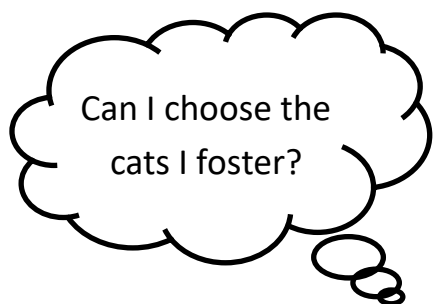
This is the main worry about fostering for many people. You will never know for sure how you will feel until you wave off the first foster cat leaving for their new home. It is understandable to worry and even dread the day of the cat leaving. However, you may be surprised what a positive feeling you get when you know you have helped a cat in need, who has now found a loving home. You can look forward to the fact that you'll be able to take on a new cat in need, and have many more laughs and wonderful experiences in the process of fostering them.



Do you have long working hours or frequently go away? You can always consider becoming an emergency fosterer for us. We sometimes need temporary foster care until a space becomes free at a more permanent

fostering home. You can also help us care for other fosterers' cats while they are away.

If you were to foster for us on a regular basis, holidays are taken into account and, with enough notice given, we will always ensure that the cats are cared for while you are away.



Sometimes it is possible to specialise in the type of cat you want to care for; some fosterers prefer caring for older or nervous cats while others like lively kittens. However, this may not always be possible. Other volunteers or staff will discuss the range of cats that are in need of help with you. Then, a decision will be made as to the best foster cat for you and the best foster home for that cat at that time.



Nope, not at all! As previously mentioned, all it costs is some of your time and dedication. All the training, equipment and food is provided by us and all vet fees are paid for.

Still not sure?

If you like the idea but have more doubts or queries, please get in touch with us and we will be happy to help.

Contact us via our email or telephone number listed on the 2nd page of this newsletter.

Could Your Pets At Home Shopping Be Helping Haverhill's Cats Protection?

Register for a Pets at Home VIP Club card and you could be raising money for Cats Protection's Haverhill Branch, every time you swipe.

Our branch has now been added as a separate charity that you can choose to support as part of the Lifeline scheme, in their VIP membership programme.

The Pets At Home VIP club is free . As well as receiving money off vouchers and a free magazine, you can nominate an animal charity of your choice to support every time you swipe your card, at no extra cost to you.

If you have chosen us as the charity to support, every time you shop with Pets At Home, we will earn 'lifelines'. Once a quarter, the 'lifelines' are turned into vouchers for our branch. We can spend the vouchers in store to buy essential resources, such

as food and litter, to provide quality care to the cats in our care.

So far, members of the Pets at Home VIP club have raised over £235,000 nationwide for Cats Protection, which is fantastic! We would truly like to thank all our supporters for their contributions through this scheme. We also hope that you may consider changing your lifeline charity of choice to our Haverhill branch to ensure that your shopping's lifelines directly go to help cats in your local area.

To help, all you need to do is register or log onto the Pets At Home VIP website.

www.vip.petsathome.com/Login

Then, choose Haverhill & District Cats Protection as your designated charity to help in the VIP Lifeline scheme.

Pops From The Shops

A heart-warming story of a cat named Pops, told by the feline's rescuer.

“

We first heard about a stray cat that needed a home through a mutual friend. There was a very affectionate cat living in a cardboard box outside the shops and we were asked whether we knew anyone who might be able to help?



Being massive cat lovers, we said that we would help. The first problem we encountered was that the cat was not a stray, but had an owner. Our friend took

Pops to the vets and found he was chipped, and legally he had to be returned to his legal owners. For one reason or another, they decided they couldn't look after him anymore. After weeks of “to-ing” and “fro-ing”, and following guidelines given to us by the vet and Cat Protection, we finally had him in our care. Oh my, what a sorry state he was in. At first, we wondered if we had bitten off more than we could chew, but this little guy needed our help and we were determined to give him the love and care that he needed.

Now this may sound gruesome but this is what we faced: when Pops came into our home, he didn't look like a cat; he was so skinny, a lot of his fur was missing and in its place were large open weeping sores, one of which was the length of his spine. He had mange on his head and underbelly and, when you

picked him up, he felt like tree bark. All his glands were swollen, his tail looked like it belonged to a rat and he was covered in fleas. Bless him, you could see he was so itchy because he couldn't stop scratching and he looked so, so, sorry for himself. Yet through all his pain, he remained a very friendly, affectionate boy, who just wanted to be loved.

Getting him healthy was no easy task. He needed regular baths, worming tables, flea treatment, steroids and constant visits to the vets.

Obviously, all this treatment was very expensive, so we set up a "Just Giving" page and a "Pops from the shops" Facebook page to raise awareness and raise some money so this little guy could get the treatment he needed. The donations came in and, fortunately, Pops turned a corner and his health improved enough for him to be introduced to the other cats (two of which we had adopted at the beginning of the year).

We were shocked to discover that the vets and Cats Protection knew

Pops very well, and for the last two and half years have been helping him as much as they could. Legally, they couldn't take the cat from his owners as he is chipped so they helped him as much as they could.

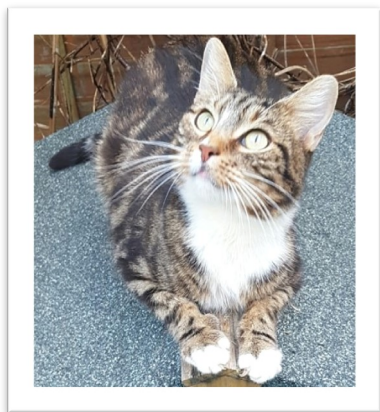
Members of the public called to report him and at least three people that we know tried but failed to rehome him themselves.

This made us all the more determined to get ownership of this cat - we didn't want to get him all healthy and pay for all the bills only to have to return him in the future. So, we drew up a letter, an "Agreement of ownership of Pops", for the previous owner to sign their cat over to us. The friend who originally found him witnessed the signature. We made a small payment to make the agreement legally binding and then he was ours. That was a great day!

He still has his flare ups now and again, and has to wear a jumper to stop him licking and chewing at the problem area (its either the jumper or the cone and the jumper wins!). We give him the

treatment and care that he needs, and the daily medication that is giving him a better quality of life.

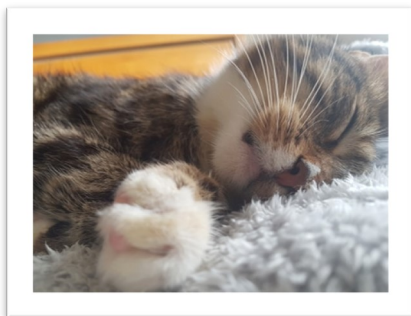
He has now gained weight, all his fur has grown back, and it's so glossy that you would never believe all the turmoil that he went through.



His real character has come out now. He LOVES playing and having a fuss and, if there is an opportunity to grab a cuddle, he will be there in a flash! To top it all off, every night, he sleeps at the end of the bed and cuddles up to his buddy (the other male cat).

At last, he has a forever home to call his own. A little bit of hard

work and a whole lot of love has really turned Pops' life around. It is so rewarding. He is a loved member of our little family and has come a long way from "living rough" outside some shops. Now he is warm, safe and happy, and yes he still loves sitting in a box!



You can follow Pops' progress on his Facebook page:

@savingpopsfromtheshops

If you are thinking of helping a cat, I would recommend getting in touch with Cats Protection. There are so many ways you can help. We took the harder option, but we still needed the advice and support from the vet and Cats Protection to get to where we are today. ”

The Branch's Statement on Pops

It's great to hear a story that has a happy ending and we are so pleased that Pops is now getting the love and attention he so deserves.

Cats Protection would just like to add a footnote to this story to highlight to all how difficult it can be to bring a cat into care, no matter how hard we try.

Cats Protection were first notified about this cat when a member of the public expressed their concern at the condition it was in. Cats Protection responded and the cat was taken to the vet. The cat was scanned and a microchip was found. The vet then notified the owners.

Although the cat required medication for its condition, Cats Protection were unable to step in as there was a known owner. If the owner seeks our assistance or offers to sign the cat into our care, then we can ask the vet to proceed with needed treatment.

This cat was reported to us on numerous occasions. Each time, we responded by taking him to the vet practice for them to

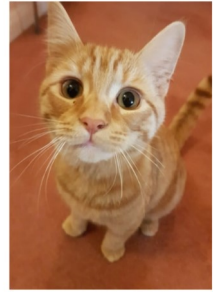
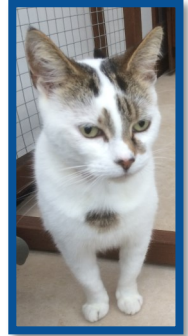
contact its owner. Every time we took the cat to the vet, it was suggested that perhaps the owner would be prepared to sign him into our care. Unfortunately, this did not happen.

We did eventually have the opportunity to help, with the owner's permission, and the cat was medically treated.

Please be assured that Cats Protection took every possible road to bring this cat into care. Owners may not be prepared to seek veterinary treatment when their cat is ill, nor willing to sign the cat over to an organisation like Cats Protection. In such cases, our hands are tied until they make the decision themselves that they no longer want the cat. This is what eventually happened.

We would like to take this opportunity to highlight that all pets are expensive. When you get a pet, you are taking responsibility for this animal's welfare. Therefore, if you think you are not able to meet both basic and medical needs of the animal, we ask that you do not adopt or buy it.

Some Of Our Recently Rehomed Cats



Check Meowt!

Until further notice, Cats Protection has suspended all homing procedures due to the Coronavirus outbreak. We have taken these measures to protect the public and our volunteers. Therefore, we have decided not to publicise any of our available cats.

If you are interested in adopting a cat from us, please regularly check our social media and website for updates on the Coronavirus situation.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

When you adopt from us, you can adopt with confidence. Why?
We endeavour to make sure cats and kittens in our care are:

- Health checked
- Blood tested
- Neutered, where appropriate
- Vaccinated against cat flu and enteritis
- Microchipped
- Flea and worm treatment administered
- Provided with 4 weeks of free Petplan insurance

